WEST BENGAL:

(i) Howrah - Haldia - 135 Km. (approx.)

(ii) Sealdah - Kalyani - 55 Km. (approx.)

(c) to (e) The routes suggested by Government of Andhbra Pradesh will be kept in view before finalising the corridors for undertaking a pre-feasibility study. Action will be taken to conduct pre-feasibility studies in consultation with State Governments. The proposal is in its initial stages and will be taken up after arrangement of the required resources.

Failure of PDS

*262. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat, rice, sugar, kerosene, etc. fixed per person per BPL/ APL card, through PDS;

(b) whether it is sufficient;

(c) the details of malpractices in PDS;

(d) the cases detected/registered and their disposal during the last three years;

(e) how many ration dealers were sentenced with imprisonment for misappropriation/selling/diverting the items in open market, during the last three years, year-wise;

(f) the measures taken by Government to check the malpractices;

(g) Government's nine point action plan for tackling diversion of PDS items and its implementation; and

(h) whether PDS has failed in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), eligible families/households are issued ration cards by State Governments and UT administrations. The TPDS is supplemental in nature. Allocation of rice and wheat under TPDS is being made by Government of India to meet approximately half of monthly food grains (cereals) requirement of a household. Therefore, this allocation is being made @ 35 kg rice and wheat per family/household per month for the AAY and BPL categories. For the Above Poverty Line (APL) cardholders, the allocation of rice and wheat is made depending upon their availability in the Central Pool.

From 01.02.2001, allocation of levy sugar to StatesAJnion Territories is being made only for BPL families, except for NE States, hilly States and island territories for which the allocation is being made for coverage of BPL as well as APL families.

The allocation of TPDS kerosene is being made to States and UTs on historical basis for the purpose of cooking and illumination only. Allocation of annual quota of TPDS kerosene is being made by the Government to States and UTs on

quarterly basis. Distribution of the TPDS kerosene within the States and UTs is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments and UT administrations. Scale of distribution of the TPDS kerosene per cardholder varies from State to State, as decided by the concerned State Government/UT Administration.

(c) to (g) TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Government of India and State/UT Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The Government of India also allocates sugar and kerosene to the State and UT Governments. The responsibility for identification of eligible families and issuance of ration cards to them, allocation of foodgrains, sugar and kerosene within the State/UT and proper distribution of the allocated TPDS commodities to eligible families through fair price shops/kerosene distributors rests with State/UT Governments.

For ensuring availability and distribution of essential commodities to targeted families, the Government issued the Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001. Under it, the State/UT Governments are mandated to ensure that the commodities allocated under the TPDS reach the targeted families and no leakages/ diversions take place.

Complaints of malpractices in functioning of the TPDS received by the Central Government from time to time are sent to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations, directing them to get the complaints enquired into and take necessary remedial action as per law. Required action is being taken by the States/ UT Administrations against those found indulging in malpractices. Details of persons arrested/prosecuted. FIRs lodged and detention orders issued as reported by States/UTs are enclosed in Statement-I *(See* below).

TPDS was got evaluated by Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission and ORG Marg, New Delhi. Their reports received in year 2005 reported that there were diversions/leakages of food grains inclusion and exclusion errors in identifying targeted beneficiary households and operations of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) were not financially viable.

By considering the shortcomings mentioned in the evaluation reports, to strengthen the TPDS, including curbing of leakages and diversions, a 9-Point action plan was formulated in 2006. Details of this action plan are enclosed in Statement-II *(See* below). This is being implemented by State Governments/UT Administrations. Its implementation is being monitored by the Central Government. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been directed to take stringent measures to eliminate leakages and diversions of the TPDS commodities and other malpractices.

To make functioning of the TPDS more transparent, recently a revised Citizens' Charter has also been issued for adoption and implementation by the State Govemments/UT Administrations. This would facilitate use by citizens of provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in relation to the functioning of the TPDS.

(h) No, Sir.

Statement-I

Details of persons arrested/prosecuted, FIR lodged and detention orders issued

(a) Details of persons arrested/prosecuted/convicted/FIR filed during last three years for malpractices under TPDS.

Year	Number of persons
2004-05	5768
2005-06	8149
2006-07	2591

(b) Details of detention orders made by State Governments during last three years for hoarding, black-marketing etc. of TPDS commodities under Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

Year	Number of orders
2004	51
2005	78
2006	134

Statement-II

Action Plan for strengthening of TPDS

(i) Continuous review of the BPL and AAY lists to eliminate bogus ration cards and to ensure coverage of only eligible BPL and Antyodaya families.

(ii) Ensuring leakage-free and diversion-free distribution of PDS commodities, regular inspection by different levels of functionaries, strict action against guilty persons/agencies.

(iii) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in PDS operations—PRI representatives on Advisory Committees, running of fair price shops by Panchayats and effective representation of Panchayati Raj representatives on Vigilance Committees.

(iv) Ensuring transparency in working of PDS, display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops, observance of notified timings by fair price shops.

(v) Use of Information Technology, Computerization of TPDS operations, display of fair price shop-wise and district-wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny.

(vi) Carryout door-step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops.

(vii) Ensuring timely availability of and issuance of foodgrains by fair price shops.

(viii) Creating awareness among public about PDS operations, training Vigilance Committees of intricacies of PDS operations.

(ix) Making fair price shops financially viable entities - allowing them to sell non PDS items etc.

Sanction of new rail line projects in Rajasthan

*263. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has not accepted the proposal of some new rail line projects because of paucity of funds; and

(b) in view of the poor railway network in Rajasthan, whether Government are going to accept the projects *i.e.,* to link Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad broad gauge railway line, Jaisalmer to Sanu, Jaisalmer to Barmer and Jaipur to Nathdwara for industrial, mining and tourism development of the State?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Many new lines surveyed in the past could not be taken up due to heavy throwforward of ongoing projects, unremunerative nature of the line surveyed and constraint of resources.

(b) New line projects are taken up to serve new industries, providing missing links, on strategic reasons and for establishing new growth centres/giving access to remote areas apart from the financial viability of the project. For linking Bhiwadi on Delhi-Ahmedabad route, the State Government of Rajasthan expressed willingness to take up this project under National Capital Region Plan and Assistance to the State for Infrastructure Development for Export and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme. The State Government was requested to bear the cost of the project since it had high negative rate of return and there has not been any positive response. The survey for Jaisalmer-Sanu new line has been taken up as a part of Jaisalmer-Anupgarh *via* Ramgarh. Survey for Jaisalmer-Barmer new line has brought out its negative Rate of Return, which is under examination. No survey for Jaipur-Nathdwara new line has been sanctioned as yet.

Wasteful expenditure due to lack of comprehensive planning

*264. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General has pulled up Railways for lack of comprehensive planning which resulted in wasteful expenditure on track renewal works on sections identified for gauge conversion and the improvement in track parameters is not commensurate with large number of track renewal works undertaken by Railways;

(b) whether CAG noted that the budgetary control mechanism was inadequate as seen from the savings over some zonal railways and excess expenditure over